

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/028,203	MEGURO ET AL.	
	Examiner Angel R. Estrada	Art Unit 2831	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on August 25, 2003.
 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2 and 4-13.
 3. The drawings filed on 20 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.
- Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**
7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>0903</u> . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Douglas P. Mueller on September 25, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a) In claim 1 line 9, change "the end" for --an end--.
- b) In claim 1 line 10, change "the side" for --a side--.
- c) In claim 2 line 2, change "an end" to --the end--.
- d) In claim 2 line 2, change "a side" to --the side--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1,2 and 4-13 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of claims 1,2 and 4-13 are:

Regarding claims 1,2 and 4-9 is the inclusion therein in combination as currently claimed of the limitation of a method for manufacturing a discharge lamp comprising the step of sealing the portion to be the sealing part by heating and softening with a combination of a laser beam and a gas burner, thus forming the sealing part, wherein, immediately before or after a completion of sealing an end of the portion to be the

sealing part on a side of the portion to be the discharge part by heating and softening with a laser beam, a region that is adjacent to the heated and softened region of the portion to be the sealing part starts being heated and softened with the gas burner.

Regarding claims 10-13 is the inclusion therein in combination as currently claimed of the limitation of a method for manufacturing a discharge lamp comprising the step of sealing the portion to be the sealing part by heating and softening with a combination of a laser beam and a gas burner, thus forming the sealing part, wherein at least a part of a region to be heated and softened with the laser beam and a part of a region to be heated and softened with the gas burner overlap each other in the portion to be the sealing part.

These limitations were found in claims 1,2 and 4-13, and are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see Amendment, filed August 25, 2003, with respect to claims 1,2 and 4-9 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1,2 and 4-9 have been withdrawn.

In response to the applicants' arguments the Examiner agrees that neither the combination of Meguro et al (US 6,487,878) and Horiuchi et al (US 6,132,279) nor the

cited prior art discloses, teaches or suggest a method of manufacturing a discharge tube including the step of sealing the portion to be the sealing part by heating and softening with a combination of a laser beam and a gas burner, thus forming the sealing part; immediately before or after a completion of sealing the end of the portion to be the sealing part on the side of the portion to be the discharge part by heating and softening with the laser beam, a region that is adjacent to the heated and softening region of the portion to be the sealing part starts being heated and softening with the gas burner.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Angel R. Estrada at telephone number (703) 305-0853. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 -5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on (703) 308-3682. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and for after final communication.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

AE

September 25, 2003

Dean A. Reichard 9/2003
DEAN A. REICHARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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